



# So You Have a Bible

A STUDY TO START  
READING GOD'S WORD



Lamp & Light

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Psalms 119:105



**This study is made to be shared!**

My passion is to have more people in God's Word.  
Feel free to send this to friends, or even print it for them.

Feel free to use this study in church settings or Bible study groups.  
It is a great, no cost way for more women to be in God's Word together!

I do ask that you **do not sell any portion of this study**.

If you choose to post it on social media or other sharing platforms,  
please link back to my website.  
I would sincerely appreciate you tagging me in posts about it!

@lampandlightliving  
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All work in my own.  
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*All Scripture is God-breathed and is  
useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and  
training in righteousness, so that the servant  
of God may be thoroughly equipped for  
every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17



# About Meghan & Lamp & Light

## Who am I and why would you want to listen to me?

Well, the truth is I'm just a nobody, trying to tell everybody all about somebody who saved my soul. And I would much rather tell you about that somebody, so I'll make this quick!

Seriously, I'm a nobody. I have no formal education, but I have been studying God's Word for most of my life and I want to share that with you.

I was raised in a Christian home- and not the kind that checked a box of church on Sunday. The kind where my parents faithfully taught, read, and expounded on God's Word. And probably even better than that, they read and lived it themselves. My dad's Bible time with our family wasn't a passive event. I owe my ability to question, know what I believe, and be able to articulate it to his constant quizzing. My mom allowed me to tag along at Bible studies she hosted in our home and I was exposed to a love for Jesus and the Word.

I went to Christian school for elementary school and hid a whole lot of God's Word in my heart.

And then I went through my teen years.

And I made a whole lot of mistakes and had to learn God's mercy, grace, forgiveness, and pursuit of "ones" who wander away.

Shortly after marrying my husband (high school sweethearts!) I started a radical return to the Lord. I began to read my Bible for myself in a way I never had before. I had a lot of serious repenting to do too! And, I started to audit and question what I was taught and thought I knew so well. To dig into God's Word and press into Him in a way I never had before. And praise the Lord, I haven't recovered from that!

I've been married to my husband, Chad, for 10 years and we have 3 precious children. We live in Alaska, our daughter has Down Syndrome, and we homeschool.

I don't have a neat degree or tittle from a Christian college or seminary to slap on here. I went to the school of hard knocks, and I think I'm still there.

I started Lamp & Light at the very end of 2020 as a Christian business. I am continually blown away by how God continues to use it in ways I never imagined. Think of it a bit as an upside down ministry- business being able to fund and promote the sharing of God's Word and how Jesus changes everything!

If I'm qualified, it is by the grace of God alone!



# Hello Friend!

The first thing I want to say to you is don't quit!! You can almost guarantee that things will crop up, life will happen, you'll get busy, you won't have time...You know how it goes. So, I am asking you not to quit before you get started!

Start with intention and purpose to keep going even when the going gets tough.

Paper Bible or Bible app, this is for you.  
No matter where you're starting from, what you believe, who you are, this is for you.  
No matter what you've done, this is for you.  
If you are willing to spend 10-15 minutes a day  
for 4 weeks reading God's Word, THIS IS FOR YOU.

You're not too far gone, you haven't lived too much or not enough. Don't buy those lies. There's always someone who knows more, and someone who knows less. Instead of feeling intimidated by what you don't know, let's get started learning what you need to know!

The Bible will never return void. God's Word is always accomplishing. Any time you spend in it is sure to produce good fruit.

The "Dwell" section is to encourage you to worship God in spirit and in truth.

"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24

It is designed with the hope that you will go beyond just knowing the truth and let it speak to you and change you. Although the days are consistent, try not to get into a rut or routine with them. Allow God to speak to you through His Word and Holy Spirit.

My hope and prayer is that as you work through these questions the truth of God's Word will become deeply imbedded in who you are, and that the Holy Spirit will guide you.

meghanne



# Outline:

*Week 1: Foundations*

*Week 2: Who is Israel?*

*Week 3: Purpose & Plan*

*Week 4: Be the Church*





# *The Bible. The inspired Word of God.*

It is written by people who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of God.

It can be proved through history, but it takes faith to believe.

Without faith it is impossible to believe and please God.

And if you can't believe God, you can't believe the Bible.

Within this one book, there are 66 smaller books.

They each have authors and themes.

Yet, they're all the inspired Word of God,  
written down by humans, but truly authored by God.

It tells a complete story, yet within the story, there are lots of stories!

The main story is God's story.

What He has done, continues to do, and will do.

It starts with Creation and ends with God's plan to right the wrongs of the world.

It is broken down into two main sections.

The Old Testament (before Jesus)

The New Testament (starts with Jesus' genealogy and birth).

Let's go through an overview of each of these sections.



# A Brief Overview of the Old Testament

## Genesis-Deuteronomy

The Torah (the Law) or the Pentateuch (which simply means "first five").

Begins with the creation of the heavens and the earth.

Tells about the start of sin and its destruction.

Tells about the life of Abraham and his descendants as specially chosen by God.

Continues on telling much about Abraham's family. You will hear "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob", often and this is where you meet these people. They are the bloodline of the Hebrew people, or the Israelites. They play a VERY important role in the entire Bible, the entire course of history, and are still relevant today. Jesus, the promised Messiah (Savior) comes from this family line. Abraham is told that through him all people will be blessed, and that is certainly true!

The rest of the story of these books follows the Israelites throughout their time of slavery in Egypt, their deliverance by God's miraculous power, the giving of the good commandments and rules they were to live by, and their journey to the Promised Land. They have a constant struggle between obeying God and rebelling against Him.

**All the rest...**tell the story of the Israelites and/or are written by them.

Some failures, some successes. God's mercy, justice, and remembrance of His people, are a constant.

They are broken down by judges, prophets, and writings.

I want to introduce you to a Hebrew term here that describes this well.

"Tanakh" is an acronym meaning:

Torah (Instruction)

Nevi'im (Prophets) - Prophecy to Israel and about the coming Messiah- Jesus.

Ketuvim (Writings)

A quick google search will tell you which books fall into which category. For now, this is enough to give you an overview.



# A Brief overview of the New testament

## The best part of the story!

Redemption. Salvation. The Messiah.

From the beginning, God had a plan of salvation for the world. A remedy for the sin we seem to always fall into. And that plan was Jesus. Fully God, fully man.

Born on this earth as a perfect sacrifice for us.

## The Gospels- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

These books each tell the same story of Jesus, but from a different person's perspective. Think of it like you and I going on a trip together. We would have the same experience, but may remember different details and have a slightly different style of sharing the story. They go through Jesus' life, ministry, miracles, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Two of them end with what we call "The Great Commission" to go into all of the world and preach the gospel. And that sets the stage for the rest of the Bible!

## Acts- The early church, the apostles, the start of the gospel going into all the world.

Acts is an incredible book! It's where we start to see the life of believers in the Messiah really start to take place. The Church as the body of Christ is formed here, clothed with power from on high (filled with the Holy Spirit), and the Good News (or the Gospel) starts to spread out into all of the world. Salvation is preached to the Gentiles (which is likely the category both you and I fall into). Jesus' disciples go from denying Him to boldly and fearlessly proclaiming him. They tell the Jewish people first. (Jewish people are Hebrews and Israelites from the tribe of Judah and Benjamin...you'll learn more about the 12 tribes of Israel as you go.) Lots of Jewish people accepted Jesus as the Messiah (the promised Savior they had been waiting for) some didn't. And that's still the true today. The Gospel is then preached to the Gentiles!

**Romans-Jude-** Letters and writings from the disciples and apostles to the churches and individuals. Most are written by Paul (you can meet him in Acts).

**Revelation-** John's vision from God telling about the end times and Jesus as the victor over all! Full of prophecy.



## Week 1, Day 1

### Foundations

### Bible Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 & Genesis 1

### Key Verse

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:3

1. What do we need in order to believe that God is the Creator?

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2. How was the earth created?

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3. Look up John 1:1. What connections do you see between Genesis 1, John 1:1, and Hebrews 11:1-3?

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4. What was God's instruction to humans?

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### Thoughts

God spoke and the heavens and the earth were created. That is the foundation of the Bible. Jesus is the Word, through these connections we immediately see that He always was and always is.

Recognizing God as Creator takes faith. It doesn't agree with what our world today says about where the earth comes from. Yet, in order for the Bible to be more than just an old book to us, we must believe this.

We have to believe that God exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. I hope that you will think through these truths and come to place of embracing God as the Creator and Founder of the earth.



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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*Think it through* Does anything in your thinking or lifestyle need to change to better reflect what the Bible says?

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*Decide* How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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*Pray* Do you feel prompted or convicted by the Holy Spirit in any area?

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## Week 1, Day 2

### Foundations

## Bible Reading

### Genesis 2

## Key Verse

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished,  
and all the host of them.

Genesis 2:1

1. What part of creation does Genesis 2 go back and give more detail on?

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2. How was Adam formed? How was Eve formed?

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3. What was God's instruction about the garden of Eden?

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4. What is God's plan for marriage? (v.24)

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## Thoughts

The foundation of our existence is being created in God's image. God made man and woman differently than all of the rest of creation. He gave them specific instructions and roles to play in creation, and to each other. God knew that it wasn't good for man to be alone. Think on how intimately God knows us. We are literally created in His image. He created us, understands us, and loves us.

He instructs us in the best way, and it is our choice if we obey what our Creator says. Throughout the Bible, we see examples of both- those who obeyed and those who didn't. Those who walked with God, and those who rebelled against His plan. No matter what, God's purpose always prevails.



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## Week 1, Day 3

### Foundations

### Bible Reading

Genesis 3

### Key Verse

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:8

1. How does the serpent go about tempting Eve?

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2. What was the consequence for Adam and Eve of not obeying God?

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3. What did God do when He knew Adam and Eve had failed?

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4. Do we still live with the consequence of sin? In what ways?

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### Thoughts

This is one of the very sad chapters of the Bible. We see an enemy emerge. Right relationship with God is broken through temptation, disobedience, and sin. It's easy to despair if you continue on in Genesis and see the sad state the world ends up in. But, praise the Lord, this side of the cross and Jesus' redemption for us, we have hope! We enjoy a firm foundation knowing that when we fail, God offers forgiveness and sacrifice through His own Son, once and for all, for the sins of the world. Tomorrow, we will get started on the foundation we have in Christ.



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## Week 1, Day 4

### Foundations

### Bible Reading John 1

### Key Verse

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word  
was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

1. From the first few verses in John 1, what do we know about Jesus, the Word made flesh?

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2. What was John sent for? (v.6-9)

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3. What comes through Jesus? (v.17)

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4. What does John call Jesus and what happens next? (v.35-38)

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### Thoughts

John 1 is a popular recommendation for starting to read the Bible. It is full of important foundational truths about Jesus, yet we also need to first understand our need for Jesus. I hope from the beginning of Genesis, you started to see that need emerge. John was Jesus' cousin. He came to prepare the way for Jesus. His life was also prophesied about in the Old Testament. John boldly declares Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He recognized his own need to decrease and for Jesus to increase. He recognized himself as unworthy and was willing to prepare the way for Jesus. At the end of this chapter, we see Jesus call His disciples in preparation for His ministry.



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## Week 1, Day 5

### Foundations

## Bible Reading John 3

### Key Verse

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish  
but have eternal life.

John 3:16

1. When does Nicodemus go to Jesus? Why do you think that is?

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2. What does Jesus say must happen in order for someone to see the Kingdom of God? (v. 3)

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3. Sum up John 3:17-18

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4. Write John 3:16, today's key verse.

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### Thoughts

This is such a foundational, amazing chapter of being a believer and new creation in Christ! It is perhaps one of the best chapters for sharing the Gospel, the good news about Jesus. We see Jesus prophecy His own death for the salvation of the world. We see that we must believe in order to receive this salvation. And some of what Jesus says is hard to understand and believe! The first half of this chapter is a conversation between Jesus and a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a teacher of the people. He was a ruler of the Jews. He wanted to know more about Jesus, yet also had a hard time accepting what Jesus told him. We too must decide if we will take the things that Jesus spoke to heart and decide to be born again through Him.



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## Week 2, Day 1

### Who is Israel?

### Bible Reading

Genesis 12:1-9, Genesis 15, Genesis 17

### Key Verse

"And I will establish my covenant between me and you  
and your offspring after you throughout their  
generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to  
you and to your offspring after you."

Genesis 17:7

1. Who is Abram? When does his name change to Abraham and why?

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2. Abram/Abraham obeys God. What actions does he take in  
obedience? (12:4, 15:6, 15:10, 17:3, 17:22)

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3. Write Genesis 15:6

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### Thoughts

It's pretty hard to make it very far into the Biblical story and not question who Israel is. Even jumping straight into the New Testament, it shouldn't be long before you question this. And because the Bible is written in and around the physical country of Israel, about the people of Israel (Hebrews, Israelites, Jews), and the Messiah comes from Israel, and is an Israelite, it is a very important question to ask! We need to learn who these people are, why they're important and chosen, and what that means for you and I. Abraham is the start of this story. If you're like me, you probably fall into the category of being a Gentile. We'll explore this as we go along also! Right now, I want you to remember that Abraham is the father of all who believe and have faith in the One True God and a willingness to act in obedience from that faith. (Romans 4:16)



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## Week 2, Day 2

### Who is Israel?

#### Bible Reading

Genesis 32

#### Key Verse

"Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Genesis 32:28

1. Why was Jacob moving? (v. 9)

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2. What is the setting of Jacob's blessing and name change? (v.22-29)

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3. What does Jacob call the place and why? (v. 30)

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4. So far, two of the people we have met while learning about the Israelites have had name changes from God. Please list their given names and what their names were changed to by God.

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#### Thoughts

Abraham is the father of Isaac his promised son, and Isaac is the father of Jacob and Esau who we encounter in today's reading. The Scriptures between yesterday's reading and today's reading contain their story in depth if you want to read more about them. For our purpose, as an overview, we are meeting Jacob, renamed Israel by God. We continue to trace the lineage of the Hebrew people, the Israelites. You can now clearly see where their name comes from! Throughout Scripture you will often hear about the "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob", and now you have a little background of who these people are. Most important takeaway- obedience and faith are what set people apart to God!



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## Week 2, Day 3

### Who is Israel?

### Bible Reading

Exodus 6:1-13, 12:33-51

### Key Verse

"I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God,  
and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who  
has brought you out from under the  
burdens of the Egyptians."

Exodus 6:7

1. Who is the Lord talking to in Exodus 6? What is the purpose?

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2. What does the LORD say that He did in 6:4? How do the Israelites respond to Moses? (6:9)

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3. Read Genesis 42:1-3, 26:1-4. How did the Israelites come to be in Egypt?  
How long were they there? (Ex. 12:40-41)

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4. Write today's key verse, Exodus 6:7

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### Thoughts

I highly recommend that you come back and read the section we're missing between Genesis 6-12. The events of how God brought the Israelites out of Egypt are truly amazing.

Joseph (Jacob's son) is a person of the Bible worth knowing. In today's reading, we see how God rescues His people from slavery to continue His faithfulness to them and to fulfil a promise made long before. Starting in Exodus 19, God gives the people a clear set of rules and ways to live before Him that will set them apart. He tells them how to worship Him, and how not to worship Him. This continues on through Leviticus and Deuteronomy and these books up through Joshua tell how God faithfully brought the people to the promised land.



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## Week 2, Day 4

### Who is Israel?

### Bible Reading

1 Samuel 8, 10:17-27

### Key Verse

"But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands."

1 Samuel 10:19

1. Why did the people of Israel want a king? (Give both their reason and God's. 8:4-7)

2. Samuel warns the people about a king. Do they listen? What is their response?

3. How was Israel's king chosen? Who was the first king and from what tribe? Was he eager to be king? (10:20-23)

### Thoughts

Wanting to be like the nations around them got the Israelites into serious trouble. They were called to be different, yet they wanted to be like those in the nations around them. This is a notable point in the story of Israel. Asking for a king impacts their story, and the stories of their kings is a significant portion of the Bible. Much of 1 Samuel- 2 Chronicles and beyond tells the story of the kings of Israel. Some who honored God, some who didn't. Those who didn't had big consequences that often resulted in the captivity of the Israelites. Eventually we see the splitting of the tribes of Israel into the northern and southern kingdoms and here is where "Jew" really comes into play. The tribes of Benjamin and Judah are the southern kingdom, while the northern kingdom eventually assimilated into the peoples around them. Saul is the first king of Israelites. But, David is by far the most well known king. Although David made mistakes, God calls him a man after His own heart and promises that the Messiah (Jesus, the Savior) would come from his line. David is the author of the book of Psalms and his son Solomon (also a king of Israel) was the wisest man to ever live and authored several other books of the Bible.



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## Week 2, Day 5

### Who is Israel?

#### Bible Reading

#### Jeremiah 31 Key Verse

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Jeremiah 31:33

1. Why did God continue His faithfulness to Israel? (v. 3)

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2. What is the request of verse 7?

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3. What is the hope mentioned in verse 17?

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4. Did Israel keep the covenant with God after leaving Egypt? (v.31-32)

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3. How is the new covenant different? (v.33-34)

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#### Thoughts

This is a beautiful chapter of the Bible. It gives a bit of an overview of some of Israel's story, but ends with the best part! Continually, Israel broke covenant and disobeyed God. Yet, the coming of a Messiah and Savior was prophesied to them. We know that Jesus is that Savior. This chapter talks about the New Covenant. Jesus later says that He IS the New Covenant in His blood. This chapter says that God's laws would be within and written on hearts. We know the Holy Spirit is given as a helper and a guide. This chapter says that God would forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more. We know that is available to anyone who calls upon the name of Jesus. Anyone who is in Christ Jesus is a New Creation, the old has gone and the new has come. We will continue to learn more about this and how the story continues next week.



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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## Week 3, Day 1

### Purpose & Plan -The Birth of Jesus-

### Bible Reading

Luke 2

### Key Verse

"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him."

Luke 2:40

1. Who were Jesus earthly parents? Where was He born?

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2. What does Mary do with the things that happen? (v. 19, 51)

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3. Jesus' life had to follow the commandments given to Moses for the Israelite people. What actions are taken on His behalf? (v. 21-24, 39)

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4. What feast do Jesus and His parents go to and where? How often? (v. 41)

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5. Compare verse 40 and 52.

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### Thoughts

Jesus was the plan from the foundation of the world. Jesus gives purpose here and now. The entire Bible is centered around Him, points to Him and tells about Him. It gives us a picture of what's to come and instructs us how to live right now. Jesus was who the prophets said He would be, He lived a perfect life on this earth, and died as a one time sacrifice for our sins. If we accept Him, we have a way to the Father. If we stay in the Word of God, we will know what to expect when He returns again!

There is more to life than simply enjoying our time here- there is a greater story and purpose at work. There is eternity to consider! Through the final week of this study, I hope you will cultivate the intention to learn more. May God's purpose and plan for your life be your heart's desire.



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## Bible Reading

### Mark 14 & Luke 23

## Week 3, Day 2

### Purpose & Plan

-Jesus'

Death & Burial-

### Key Verse

"And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

Mark 14:62

1. What time of year was Jesus crucified (a certain feast) and where?

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2. What does Jesus say when He is crucified? (Luke 23:34)

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3. Write today's key verse, Mark 14:62

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### Thoughts

Without the immense sacrifice of Jesus, we have nothing, no hope. But praise be to God, we **do** have hope! Today's reading is filled with incredible things that it's easy to read right over. As you grow, learn, and dig into Scripture, you begin to realize just how beautiful the Bible is. How inspired and flawless it is.

Leviticus 21:10 says that the high priest must not tear his clothing. Yet, we read in Mark 14:63 that the high priest tore his clothes. This would have disqualified him. We also see Jesus' clothing is **not** torn during all of the abuse He went through, but rather they cast lots for His clothing (Luke 23:34, prophesied in Psalm 22:18).

In Hebrews 4:14-16 we read that Jesus is our high priest, "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

So incredible! Jesus was qualified, just after the high priest was disqualified.

In Luke 23:45, we read that the curtain of the temple was torn in two (Mark 15 specifies from top to bottom). Please read Ephesian 2:13-16. These are only a couple examples. Study deeply and you are sure to find many more!



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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*Think it through* Reading and thinking about Jesus' death on our behalf is intense. When you think on it, what sticks with you?

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*Decide* How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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*Pray* Do you feel prompted or convicted by the Holy Spirit in any area?

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## Week 3, Day 3

### Purpose & Plan

-He's Alive!-

### Bible Reading

Luke 24, Matthew 28:16-20

### Key Verse

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them  
to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold,  
I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:17-20

1. Who went to the tomb? Who told them Jesus had risen? (Luke 24:2-10)

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2. What does Jesus say was necessary? (Luke 24:26)

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3. What instruction does Jesus give in Luke 24:47-49?

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4. Compare Luke 24:47-49 with Matthew 28:18-20

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### Thoughts

He's alive and I'm forgiven! (**Listen to He's Alive by Don Francisco**)

Until Jesus returns again, this marks the most exciting day in history! Things have never been the same since, because we are now able to be a new creation in Christ. We have access to the Father through what Jesus did for us. The grave could not hold Him, the power of God triumphs over death, and there is nothing in all of creation that can separate us from His love!

How neat it must have been to have Jesus explain from the Scriptures the things about Himself. Remember at this time, they only had what we call the Old Testament as their Scriptures. Jesus interpreted to them all the things about Himself, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets. Once He broke bread with them they understood who they were with! Jesus left His disciples with the final command that we call the Great Commission.

You and I have the Gospel because they obeyed.

Now, we should go and do likewise!



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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*Think it through* Does anything in your thinking or lifestyle need to change to better reflect what the Bible says?

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*Decide* How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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*Pray* Do you feel prompted or convicted by the Holy Spirit in any area?

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## Week 3, Day 4

### Purpose & Plan

#### -What to Expect-

### Bible Reading

2 Timothy 3, Titus 3

### Key Verse

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. What instruction is given in 2 Timothy 3:14? Can we make this our aim too?

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2. What instruction is given in Titus 3:1-2?

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3. Sum up Titus 3:4-8

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4. Write today's key verse, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

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### Thoughts

The portion of the letters we read today are written by Paul to Timothy and Titus. He was instructing and mentoring them in the way they should live, and the way they should teach others in the church to behave. These letters are full of incredible things and deserve a full reading soon!

We aren't promised a life where everything is peachy-keen as we follow Jesus. He will be with us always, but we are likely to encounter persecution and trials if we are really following Him. Read Matthew 16:24-27. We are instructed to count the cost if we intend to follow Jesus.

You will see this point reiterated in Paul's letters. He suffered greatly for the sake of Jesus and spreading the gospel, yet counted it all joy. Don't be afraid by this, but rather know that God supplies the strength and His reward is worth it!



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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*Think it through* Does anything in your thinking or lifestyle need to change to better reflect what the Bible says?

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*Decide* How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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*Pray* Do you feel prompted or convicted by the Holy Spirit in any area?

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## Week 3, Day 5

### Purpose & Plan

-He's Coming Again!-

### Bible Reading

Matthew 24, Revelation 22

### Key Verse

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 22:12-13

1. What does Jesus instruction in Matthew 24:4?

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2. What does Jesus say will happen in Matthew 24:12? Who will be saved? (v.13)

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3. Who knows the day and hour of Jesus return? (Matt 24:36)

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4. Jesus says when He is coming a few times in Revelation 22. What does He say? Does this disagree with Matthew 24?

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4. Write today's key verse, Revelation 22:12-13

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### Thoughts

You have now read the first and last chapters of the Bible- and several in between! Let's keep it going!

Guard your heart not to let your love grow cold. Be careful not to get sidetracked with people who claim they can predict exactly when Jesus will return. ALWAYS bring everything back to Scripture. Check what you hear, be diligent. Fix your eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith. His Word is true and perfect. It can be trusted. Learn it well. Remember that the Jewish people knew the Scriptures concerning the coming Messiah very well, yet they still missed Jesus. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear!



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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*Think it through* Does anything in your thinking or lifestyle need to change to better reflect what the Bible says?

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*Decide* How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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*Pray* Do you feel prompted or convicted by the Holy Spirit in any area?

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## Week 4, Day 1

### Be the Church

## Bible Reading Acts 2

### Key Verse

"Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Acts 2:46-47

1. How does Acts 2 begin? What were the people gathered for?

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2. What was being told through those who received the Holy Spirit? (v.11)

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3. Who is being told about Jesus? What is the instruction to them? (v. 36-41)

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4. Describe what the beginning of the Church looked like from verse 42-47.

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### Thoughts

Acts 2 is pivotal! People who believe in Jesus and bear witness to His ministry, death, burial, and resurrection are forever changed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Although the word church isn't actually used in Acts 2, this chapter is foundational to shaping what we know as the church. The word Church is used two times prior to Acts, and both occur in Matthew. Jesus speaks to Peter in Matthew 16:18 and the other is in Matthew 18. The church seems to be something people understood, and indeed they likely did. The Greek word for church is "ekklēsia". It is a gathering or assembly of people. In Hebrew is it "qâhâl" and this word is first used all the way back at Abraham to tell him that God would make him a "company" of people. It continues to be used throughout the OT for the "assembly" of the Israelites. This idea wasn't new on the scene at Jesus. It had been used for people who chose to gather and worship the one true God. Come to the book of Acts, and suddenly this represents what we call Christians—those who choose to surrender to, obey, and follow Jesus.

Put the book of Acts on your list to come back and read through soon!



## Be the Church

How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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## Think it through

Does anything in your thinking or lifestyle need to change to better reflect what the Bible says?

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## Decide

How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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## Pray

Do you feel prompted or convicted by the Holy Spirit in any area?

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## Week 4, Day 2

### Be the Church

## Bible Reading

Acts 10

## Key Verse

"So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."

Acts 10:34-35

1. Who is Cornelius? (v.1-2)

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2. What is Peter told in verse 15? Does Peter understand this vision right away?

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3. What is Peter explaining in verses 34-43? What is the end goal? (v.43)

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4. What do the Gentiles receive? (v.44, 48)

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## Thoughts

Often times there is a false perception that the Church has nothing to do with Israel, or perhaps that it even replaced Israel. That simply isn't true if we stick with Scripture as our guide. The first church was initially compromised only of Israelites! The Gentiles, (those from among the nations, likely what you and I are) really don't come on the scene until Acts 10. Those who were believers in Jesus as the Messiah continued to gather at the temple and at synagogues.

They continued to try to persuade their Israelite brothers and sisters to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. A great many Israelites/Jewish people DID believe and recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah. And a great many didn't.

In Acts chapters 7 and 8 we see persecution begin for those who believed in Jesus as the Messiah. The persecution was often brought on by those who were Israelites, but didn't recognize Jesus as the Promised One. In Acts 10, Peter receives a vision from God that opens the door for the Gentiles to hear the gospel and this starts a whole new season in the Church.



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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*Think it through* Does anything in your thinking or lifestyle need to change to better reflect what the Bible says?

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*Decide* How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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*Pray* Do you feel prompted or convicted by the Holy Spirit in any area?

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## Week 4, Day 3

### Be the Church

### Bible Reading

#### Romans 11

### Key Verse

"So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall?

By no means! Rather, through their trespass  
salvation has come to the Gentiles,  
so as to make Israel jealous."

Romans 11:11

1. Did God reject His people? (v.1) What does verse 5 say there is?

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2. What is the illustration given of this? (v.17-24)

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3. What are we told to note in verse 22?

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4. What does Paul say this is? (v.25)

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5. Why is Israel beloved? (v. 28) Does this show faithfulness on God's part?

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6. Write Romans 11:36.

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### Thoughts

Paul becomes the minister to the Gentiles. (Read his story in Acts 9.) He is sent by God to proclaim salvation through Jesus to the Gentiles and to explain to them their place in Christ. He wrote much of the New Testament, many books are letters from him to the churches. In Romans 11, he is explaining to the church in Rome their role as Gentile believers, and emphasizing to them that they did not replace Israel. One of our jobs as believers is actually to provoke the Jewish people to jealousy! Paul explains that a partial hardening has come upon Israel so that the full number of the Gentiles may come in.

Re-read verse 28.

As you grow and learn in faith, please always keep this chapter in mind.



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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*Think it through* Does anything in your thinking or lifestyle need to change to better reflect what the Bible says?

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*Decide* How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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## Week 4, Day 4

### Be the Church

### Bible Reading

Romans 15

### Key Verse

"For whatever was written in former days was written  
for our instruction, that through endurance and  
through the encouragement of the  
Scriptures we might have hope."

Romans 15:4

1. What do we have an obligation to do? (v.1) Why?

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2. What are we called to live in and why? (v.5-6)

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3. Who does this say Christ was a servant to? (v.8) Why?

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4. What does Paul say Christ accomplished through him? (v.18-19)

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5. Sum up verse 21.

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### Thoughts

Romans 15 continues to explain the relationship between Gentile and Israelite, yet it also holds some great instruction on how we're called to live as believers in Jesus. Romans 15:4 explain the role of Scripture in our life beautifully! It is given for our instruction. It should provide us with endurance and encouragement. We should have hope from this! As you read through your Bible, make a point of looking for these- instruction, endurance, encouragement, and hope. Pray that God will give you the ability to understand some of the harder points and the "mystery of the gospel". Strive to live in such a way that your life will provoke the Israelites by birth to jealousy and make them want to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Many of them are still watching for His first coming, but we know we are awaiting His second return!



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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*Think it through* Does anything in your thinking or lifestyle need to change to better reflect what the Bible says?

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*Decide* How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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*Pray* Do you feel prompted or convicted by the Holy Spirit in any area?

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## Week 4, Day 5

### Be the Church

### Bible Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Ephesians 2 & 3

### Key Verse

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

1. How is the Church described in 1 Corinthians 12? Are all parts needed?

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2. How have we been saved? How should we live? (Ephesians 2:8-10)

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3. What does Ephesians 2:13-14 say that Christ did? What is He?

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4. What is the purpose of "one new man"? (Ephesians 2:15-16)

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5. What does Ephesians 2:22 say we are being built into?

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### Thoughts

Wow! These passages are so rich in illustration and instruction. The body of Christ, the Church. One, yet many parts working together. We are all reconciled to God through the cross, and there shouldn't be any hostility. We have been brought near by the blood of Christ and we have hope and peace! Jesus himself is the cornerstone of what the Church is being built into- a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Through God's riches and glory, He strengthens us in our inner being through the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ dwells in our hearts though faith. We must be rooted and grounded in love in order that we'll have strength to comprehend with all the saints and to know Christ's love. The purpose of the Church is to be built up in such a way that God gets the glory for it. That is only possible through each of us allowing God to build and strengthen us individually, and as one with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I hope that you will make a lifestyle out of consistently reading God's Word. The Bible is a book meant to be read over and over. And not only read. **It is to be lived by!**



How do you *feel* about what you read today?

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*Think it through* Does anything in your thinking or lifestyle need to change to better reflect what the Bible says?

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*Decide* How can you make sure your lifestyle and actions reflect what you profess to believe?

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*Pray* Do you feel prompted or convicted by the Holy Spirit in any area?

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# *Notes*

## Scripture Writing



# *Notes*

## Scripture Writing



# *Notes*

## Scripture Writing



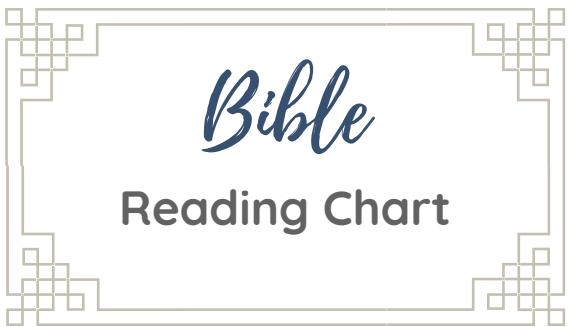
# *Notes*

## Scripture Writing



# Keep Reading!

- Acts (About the early Church/spreading of the Gospel)
- 1 & 2 Corinthians (Instructions to the Church)
- 1 Timothy (Only 6 chapters and great for godly living!)
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- (^All short books but full of great stuff!)
- At least one of the Gospels in its entirety  
(Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- Proverbs (Wisdom, one for every day of the month)
- The book of Psalm (Comfort)



Use this chart to mark off each day for the next month and stay on track with reading God's Word.  
They say you can create a new habit in 21 days, may this be a life long one that you create!

Sunday				
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				

# Thank you



For completing this study. Think of it like the cover of a book. It gave you a little bit about the story, but now you have to really read! I'm going to encourage you again with what I encouraged you with at the beginning- don't quit. You have much to gain and everything to loose if you don't become a student of God's Word. It is what will keep you from being deceived in your walk with the Lord. It is your offensive weapon against the attacks of the Enemy. Jesus used Scripture when He was tempted in the wilderness by Satan and we should learn to do this too. Don't be led astray by a verse pulled out of context here and there.

Know your Bible well enough to confidently answer: "it is written."

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

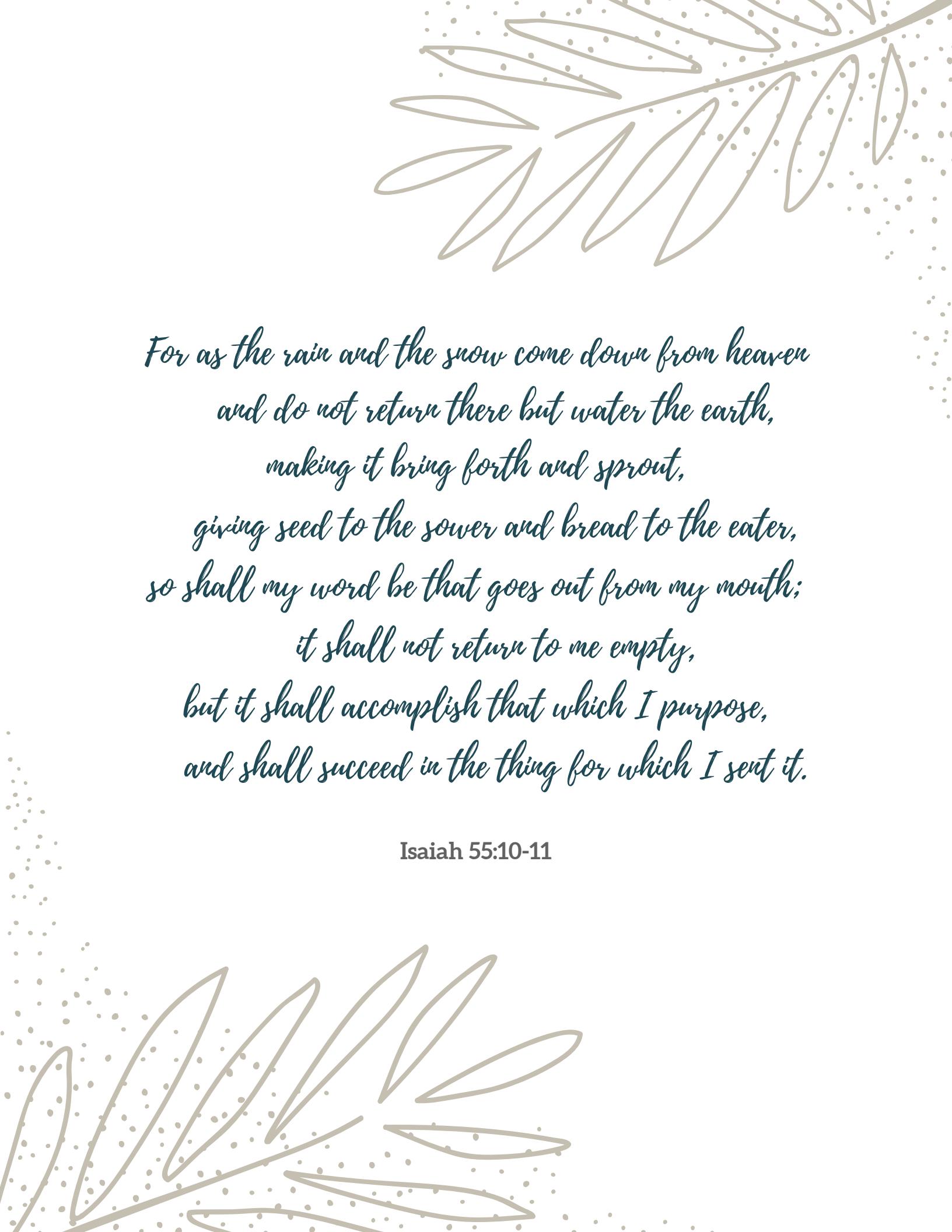
For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life,  
and those who find it are few." -Jesus

Matthew 7:13-14

One final thought:

Pray that you will love God's Word.





*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

Isaiah 55:10-11